

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectively requested in view of the above amendments and these remarks. Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, and 17-18 are currently pending.

According to the Office Action, claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,751,761 to Gilhousen. In addition, claims 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilhousen in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0146059 to Kodani et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections set forth in the present office action. However, desiring to expedite the issuance of a patent for the present invention and in view of the Examiner's indications of amendments that would confer allowance, Applicants have sought to amend the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 7, 10 and 16 to overcome this rejection and amended claims 2, 8, 11 and 17. Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note with appreciation that the subject matter of these claims is deemed to be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the superseding and rejected claims. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under Section 102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn.

As the Applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the Applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Serial No. 10/005,542
Thorson et al
Case No. CE08150R

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to
50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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